RFA Update - 28 Jan

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Minister,

Heading into the weekend I would like to update you regarding domestic developments.

Firstly, with respect to the impending protests in downtown Ottawa, CAF is closely tied in with Federal and Provincial authorities as well as police officials. There are indications that the RCMP and perhaps other local police departments will request the use of appropriate CAF and DND facilities to use as parking and waiting areas for law enforcement elements assigned during the protest. I am closely monitoring the situation and will provide you my recommendation should the RFA materialize. As task in support of law enforcement, such a request would require your approval. It is possible that Minister Public Safety contact you directly on the matter and should this be the case, I will be ready to provide my advice.

In Attawapiskat, CAF support to the community has been extended by two weeks from 29 January to 11 February . There are currently 14 active cases and 13 households in isolation. There are 10 Canadian Rangers from the Local Patrol Group supporting their community. Close liaison between the CAF contingent on the ground and community leadership remains strong.

Also in Ontario, 2x Canadian Rangers have been activated as Sentinels in Peawanuck First Nation in Northern Ontario to monitor the situation in the community after two positive COVID cases were detected. Community leadership is very worried that there could be many more cases. Provincial and Federal authorities are engaged with the community and I will advise if it trends towards an RFA for CAF support.

In Quebec, our efforts on the vaccination campaign continue with approximately 200 CAF members working in 15 different sites. CAF support to the Province has been extended until 15 February. Support to at least four sites is expected to end by Wednesday. This is consistent with the expected draw down of CAF support during the extension.

Finally, we have just learned that initial discussions are underway regarding a possible Royal Visit to Canada in May of this year, involving The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. During such visits, the Department of History and Heritage requests the support of the CAF. Typically, CAF airlift and several honorary and ceremonial duties are required. We are starting our planning efforts and I will advise you in more detail as the plan matures.

Minister, we will be well linked throughout the week-end with our federal partners to follow the developments on the convoy and stand ready to help if called upon. As mentioned before, the CAF is

not the ideal tool to assist in law enforcement matters and it is best that we support in the periphery.

Hoping this week-end remains peaceful here in Ottawa. Safe travels.

V/R

Wayne

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